



Idiom Podium

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Level 3

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with the words in the boxes.

ear

clue

hang

picture

stick

area

1. I soon began to get the ____ of the new filing system.
2. Anna doesn't have a ____ how to talk to children.
3. The difference between telling a lie and not telling the whole truth is a gray ____.
4. I thought she was paying for dinner but I must have got the wrong end of the ____.
5. Brad tried to remember the directions but they seemed to have gone in one ____ and out the other.
6. The inspector spent a few minutes with the victim and soon began to get the ____.

Exercise 2

Match sentence halves 1–6 with A–F to make complete sentences.

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. We saw them together in the restaurant and it was so easy to... | A. ...read between the lines. |
| 2. I've told them I'm a vegetarian many times but they just don't... | B. ...take it on board. |
| 3. I always pay attention, and that's why I'm always able to... | C. ...had put two and two together and made five. |
| 4. I've learnt a lot about the new strategy and I'll run a training day to... | D. ...Jump to conclusions. |
| 5. Why people are scared of new ideas is something I've never been able to... | E. ...get my head around. |
| 6. Unfortunately, the children were disappointed; they... | F. ...bring you all up to speed. |

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Exercise 3

Complete the sentences. Choose the best answers.

1. Then you click 'save' and move the file to here. Do you **read between the lines** / **get the picture** / **put two and two together**?
2. It's going to take me a couple of days to get **up to speed** / **the picture** / **the wrong end of the stick** with the new project.
3. This is a very difficult exercise. I just can't **jump to conclusions** / **go in one ear and out the other** / **get my head round it**.
4. Don't worry. You'll soon **get the hang of it** / **jump to conclusions** / **get the wrong end of the stick**.
5. Listen to all the evidence and don't **take it on board** / **jump to conclusions** / **get your head around it**.
6. Adam shook his head; he didn't **put two and two together** / **read between the lines** / **have a clue** how to fix this.

Exercise 4

Replace the underlined words with the correct idioms in the boxes.

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get hold of the wrong end of the stick	get the hang of it	get the picture
go in one ear and out the other	haven't got a clue	read between the lines

1. You don't have to explain it anymore. I understand the situation.
2. He doesn't listen carefully, and tends to misunderstand.
3. I don't think I'll be to do the accounts. I know nothing about book keeping.
4. They haven't actually said anything is wrong, but I can sense it.
5. It's difficulty at first, but after a bit of practice, you learn how to do it.
6. You have to repeat everything to them. Whatever you say will be forgotten immediately afterwards!

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The Answer

Exercise 1

1. hang
2. clue
3. area
4. stick
5. ear
6. picture

Exercise 2

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. F
5. E
6. C

Exercise 3

1. get the picture
2. up to speed
3. get my head round it
4. get the hang of it
5. jump to conclusions
6. have a clue

Exercise 4

1. get the picture
2. get hold of the wrong end of the stick
3. haven't got a clue
4. read between the lines
5. get the hang of it
6. go in one ear and out the other